

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device, comprising:

selection means for selecting ~~[[a]]~~ symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus using a graphical user interface;

determination means for determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected by said selection means;

reception means for receiving information of the second shared device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition;

recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means;

renewal means for updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition

means; and

display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and ~~the~~ information of the ~~first~~ third shared device on a same screen of said display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on ~~the~~ the third shared device₂ which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means₂ is not updated.

Claim 2. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device.

Claim 3. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which

manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 5 and 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended): An information processing method of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device, comprising:

a selection step, of selecting [[a]] symbols of the first shared device and the

second shared device ~~managed by another information processing apparatus~~ using a graphical user interface;

a determination step, of determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected in said selection step;

a reception step, of receiving information of the second shared device selected in said selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step, the received information including information of the second shared device including an updated status and a connected condition;

a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received in said reception step;

a renewal step, of updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made in said recognition step; and

a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated in said renewal step and ~~[[the]]~~ information of the ~~[[first]]~~ third shared device on a same screen of the display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on ~~[[a]]~~ the third shared device₂ which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected in said selection step₂ is not updated.

Claim 10. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a first reception control step of designating a shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device.

Claim 11. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 12. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes, at a log-on operation to the network system, automatically receiving the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 13 and 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step includes, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, invalidating the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device, comprising:

code for a selection step, of selecting [[a]] symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus using graphical user interface;

code for a determination step, of determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected by said code for said selection step;

code for a reception step, of receiving information of the second shared device selected by said code for the selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined by said code for said determination step, the received information including information of the second shared device including an updated status and a connected condition;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said code for the reception step;

code for a renewal step, of updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by said code for the recognition step; and

code for a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status or connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said code for the renewal step and [[the]] information of the [[first]] third shared device on a same screen of the display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on [[a]] the third shared device₂ which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by said code for said selection step₂ is not updated.

Claim 18. (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a first reception control step of designating a shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device ~~included~~.

Claim 19. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes, at a log-on operation to the network system, code for automatically receiving the information of the plurality of shared devices

present in the network system.

Claims 21 and 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the renewal step includes, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, code for invalidating the information of the shared of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device, comprising:

selection means for selecting [[a]] symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus using a graphical user interface;

determination means for determining which the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected by said selection means;

obtaining means for obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means;

recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device, and information of the third shared device,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on [[a]] the third shared device₂ which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means₂ is not updated.

Claim 26. (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 27. (currently amended): An information processing method of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device comprising:

a selection step, of selecting [[a]] symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device ~~managed by another information processing apparatus~~ using a graphical

user interface;

a determination step, of determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected in said selection step;

an obtaining step, of obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device selected in said selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step;

a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device, and information of the third shared device,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on ~~[[a]]~~ the third shared device₂ which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected in said selection step₂ is not updated.

Claim 28. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, in which said display step includes displaying on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 29. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a

program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device, comprising:

code for a selection step, of selecting [[a]] symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device ~~managed by another information processing apparatus~~ using a graphical user interface;

code for a determination step, of determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected by said code for said selection step;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device selected by said code for the selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined by said code for said determination step;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said code for the obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of a second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said code for the recognition step, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device, and information of the third shared device,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on [[a]] the third shared device, which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by said code for said selection step, is not updated.

Claim 30. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 29, in which said display step includes displaying information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 31. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus that manages a first device and a third device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus that manages a second device, comprising:

designation means for designating ~~[[a]]~~ the first device and the second device ~~managed by another information processing apparatus~~ using a graphical user interface;

determination means for determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second device designated by said designation means;

obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device designated by said designation means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means; and

display means for displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said obtaining means, and information of the third device,

wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on ~~[[a]]~~ the third device, which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not designated by said designation means, is not updated.

Claim 32. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising:

storage means for storing the first and second device information obtained by said obtaining means; and

specifying means for, when said designation means designates the second device, specifying the first and second device information from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage means,

wherein said display means displays the status or the connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information specified by said specifying means.

Claim 33. (currently amended) An information processing method of an information processing apparatus that manages a first device and a third device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus that manages a second device, comprising:

a designation step, of designating ~~[[a]]~~ the first device and the second device ~~managed by another information processing apparatus~~ using a graphical user interface;

a determination step, of determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second device designated in said designation step;

an obtaining step, of obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device designated in said designation step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step; and

a display step, of displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained in said obtaining step, and information of the third device,

wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on [[a]] the third device₂ which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not designated in said designation step₂ is not updated.

Claim 34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 33, further comprising:

a storage step, of storing the first and second device information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a specifying step, of, when said designation step designates the second device, specifying the first and second device information from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage step,

wherein said display step displays the status or the connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information specified in said specifying step.

Claim 35. (currently amended) A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus that manages a first device and a third device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus that manages a second device, comprising:

code for a designation step, of designating [[a]] the first device and the second device ~~second device managed by another information processing apparatus using a graphical user interface;~~

code for a determination step, of determining ~~which~~ the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second device designated by said code for said designation step;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device designated by said code for the designation step from the other information processing apparatus determined by said code for said determination step; and

code for a display step, of displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said code for the obtaining step, and information of the third device,

wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on [[a]] the third device, which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not designated by said code for said designation step, is not updated.

Claim 36. (previously presented) A computer readable memory according to claim 35, further comprising:

code for a storage step, of storing the first and second device information obtained by said code for the obtaining step; and

code for a specifying step, of, when said code for the designation step designates

the second device, specifying the first and second device information from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored by said code for the storage step,

wherein said code for the display step displays the status or the connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information specified by said code for the specifying step.

Claims 37 - 39. (canceled)